

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

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TAGS: PINT, ELAB, IT

SUBJECT: POLITICAL CRISIS REFLECTED IN TRADE UNIONS - BASIS DEMANDS
REAFFIRMED

1. SUMMARY. - AMID VIGOROUS DISSENT, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE ITALIAN LABOR FEDERATION CGIL, CISL, UIL ON JUNE 12
APPROVED A COMPROMISE RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING VALIDITY OF
UNION DEMANDS AS PRESENTED TO THE RUMOR GOVERNMENT AND
CONDEMNING CREDIT POLICY ASSOCIATED WITH BANK OF ITALY GOVERNOR
CARLI. HOWEVER, CISL, AIDED BY CGIL SEC GEN LAMA, BEAT BACK
SOCIALIST EFFORTS TO PIN RESPONSIBILITY FOR POLITICAL CRISIS
ON THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. PROPOSALS FOR POLITICAL STRIKES IN
SUPPORT OF UNION DEMANDS ALSO REJECTED. IT IS EVIDENT THAT
POLITICAL CRISIS CAUSING REPERCUSSIONS IN LABOR MOVEMENT AND
UNION MEETING DEMONSTRATED BASIC PARTY TIES OF LABOR LEADERS.

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FINAL DISPUTED UNION RESOLUTION RESULTED IN NO SOFTENING

UNION DEMANDS, BUT TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON POLITICAL STRIKES
OFFER SHORT BREATHING SPACE IN ORDER FORM NEW GOVERNMENT. END
SUMMARY

2. THE ITALIAN UNIONS, RESEMBLING A HARRIED COALITION GOVERNMENT
THEMSELVES, WRAPPED UP TWO DAYS OF VIGOROUS AND POLEMICAL DEBATE
ON THE ECONOMIC CRISIS AND ATTEMPTED WORK OUT A COMMON UNION
POLICY WITH WHICH TO CONFRONT NEW SITUATION. AT THE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE CGIL, CISL, UIL (CCU) MEETING (90 MEMBERS EQUALLY
DISTRIBUTED AMONG THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS) CONFEDERATION
LEADERS WERE PITTED AGAINST INDUSTRIAL UNIONS, AND MINORITIES
IN ALL THREE UNIONS OPENLY ATTACKED CONFEDERAL POLICIES.

3. FROM THE OUTSET OF THE UNION GATHERING SOCIALISTS IN THE UIL
AND CGIL SOUGHT TO FIX BLAME FOR GOVERNMENT CRISIS ON THE DC
AND SPECIFICALLY TREASURY MINISTRY COLOMBO. MAJOR INDUSTRIAL
UNIONS AND SOME CGIL COMMUNISTS ALSO TOOK THIS LINE. CISL SECGEN
STROTI, AIDED BY CGIL LEADER LAMA, BEAT BACK EFFORTS TO FIX
POLITICAL BALME, ACCEPTING IN FINAL DOCUMENT, HOWEVER, CLEAR
REJECTION OF THECREDIT POLICY "SUPPORTED BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE
BANK OF ITALY WHICH IS LEADING TO RECESSION AND WHICH FORCES
BORKERS TO BEAR THE BURDEN OF ITALY'S ECONOMIC CRISIS."

4. DEBATE ALSO REGED AROUND MEANS OF SUPPORTING UNION DEMANDS
WHICH WERE TO HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATED WITH PRIME MINISTER RUMOR.
INDUSTRIAL UNIONS CALLED FOR A SERIES OF STRIKES IN ORDER TO
DEMONSTRATE UNION COMMITMENT AND TO DEMAND ACTION NOW FROM
WHATEVER GOVERNMENT EXISTS EVEN IF IT BE CARETAKEN ONLY.
LED BY CISL, WHICH WAS CONTENDING WITH DISSENT FROM ITS
MINORITY, THE CONFEDERATIONS NEGOTIATED A COMPROMISE WITH
INDUSTRIAL UNIONS. UNION DEMANDS WOULD NOT BE MODIFIED BUT
NO PROGRAM OF STRIKES TO SUPPORT THEM WOULD BE CALLED AT THIS
TIME. INSTEAD ASSEMBLIES WOULD BE HELD IN THE FACTORIES IN
ORDER TO EXPLAIN UNION POLICY AND TO EXPRESS WORKERS DESIRE
FOR A RAPID CONCLUSION TO GOVERNMENT CRISIS.

5. THE "NEUTRAL" COMPROMISE DOCUMENT LEFT MANY UNSATISFIED.
WHILE THE INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIALISTS ATTACKED THE DC AND
ADVOCATED A MILITANT STAND, THE CISL MINORITY, LET BE FORMER
DEPSEC GEN SCALIA, CALLED FOR TEMPORARY "SELF-REGULATION" OF
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WAGES AND UNION EFFORTS TO IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY IN
EFFORT HELP SOLVE ECONOMIC CRISIS.

6. FINAL VOTE ON COMPROMISE DOCUMENT WAS 56 IN FAVOR,
5. ABSTENTIONS (CISL MINORITY) AND 29 ABSENT (UIL SOCIAL
DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS WALKED OUT AS VOTE WAS TAKEN).
ALTHOUGH RESOLUTION HAD OVERWHELMING APPROVAL OF THOSE VOTING,
TECHNICALLY IT DOES NOT REPRESENT FEDERATION CCU POLICY SINCE

A 4/5 VOTE (72) IS NECESSARY FOR APPROVAL OF CCU RESOLUTIONS.

7. COMMENT: THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CRISIS IS NOW CLEARLY ECHOED IN UNIONS WHERE PARTY TIES OF LABOR LEADERS ARE ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATED. AN APPARENT ANOMALY WAS THE RATHER APOLITICAL STANCE OF COMMUNIST CGIL LEADER LAMA WHO CONCENTRATED ON CRISIS ITSELF, RELEGATING POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY TO SECONDARY STATUS. CGIL SECRETARY LAMA FULLY SUPPORTED CISL LEADER STORTI'S EFFORTS TO PREVENT DC FROM BEING SADDLED WITH FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR GOVERNMENT CRISIS. THUS PCI CONTINUES TO WORK FOR CONSENSUS IN LABOR MOVEMENT AND SEEKS AVOID POLICY WHICH WOULD EXACERBATE POLITICAL DIVISIONS IN LABOR MOVEMENT. AT SAME TIME CGIL AND PCI CALL FOR POLITICAL CHANGES TO GUARANTEE REFORMS AND A "NEW WAY OF DEVELOPMENT." THIS POLICY MAY ALSO SERVE TO AID STORTI AS HE CONTENTS WITH A CISL MINORITY MORE CLOSELY ALIGNED TO DC CENTER. INTERESTING TO NOTE IS THE PROPOSAL OF COMMUNIST METAL WORKER LEADER TRENTIN, WHO CALLED FOR DIRECT UNION NEGOTIATIONS WITH POLITICAL PARTIES IN INTERREGNUM PERIOD. THE CISL PUNCTURED THAT TRIAL BALLOON.

8. IMMEDIATE EFFECT OF INCONCLUSIVE UNION MEETING SHOULD BE TO BUY SOME TIME FOR POLITICIANS TO REASSEMBLE A GOVERNMENT, SINCE THERE IS TO BE A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON POLITICAL STRIKES. IN FINAL ANALYSIS, HOWEVER, UNIONS HAVE NOT BACKTRACKED AND AWAIT RESPONSE TO THEIR PREVIOUS DEMANDS, THE NUCLEUS OF WHICH IS AN EASED CREDIT POLICY. BEAUDRY

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